

Montana DEQ Forest Fire Smoke Advisory

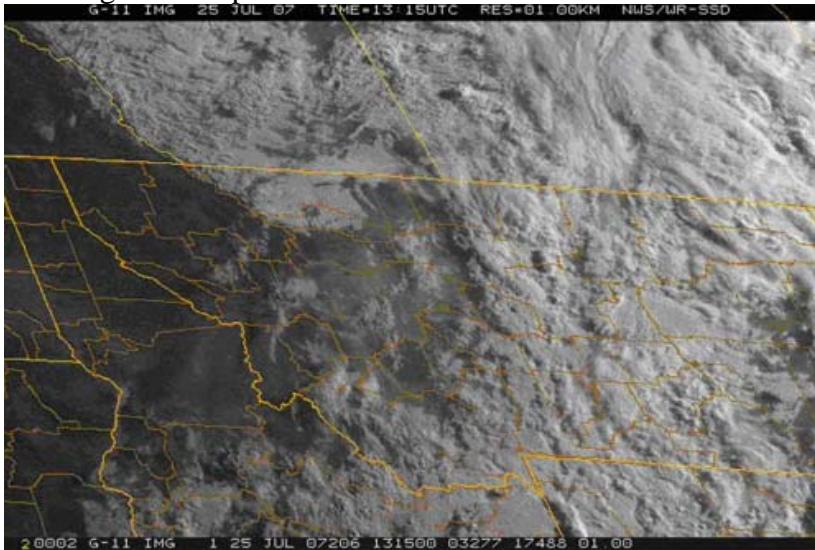
July 25 2007

10:00 AM Wednesday

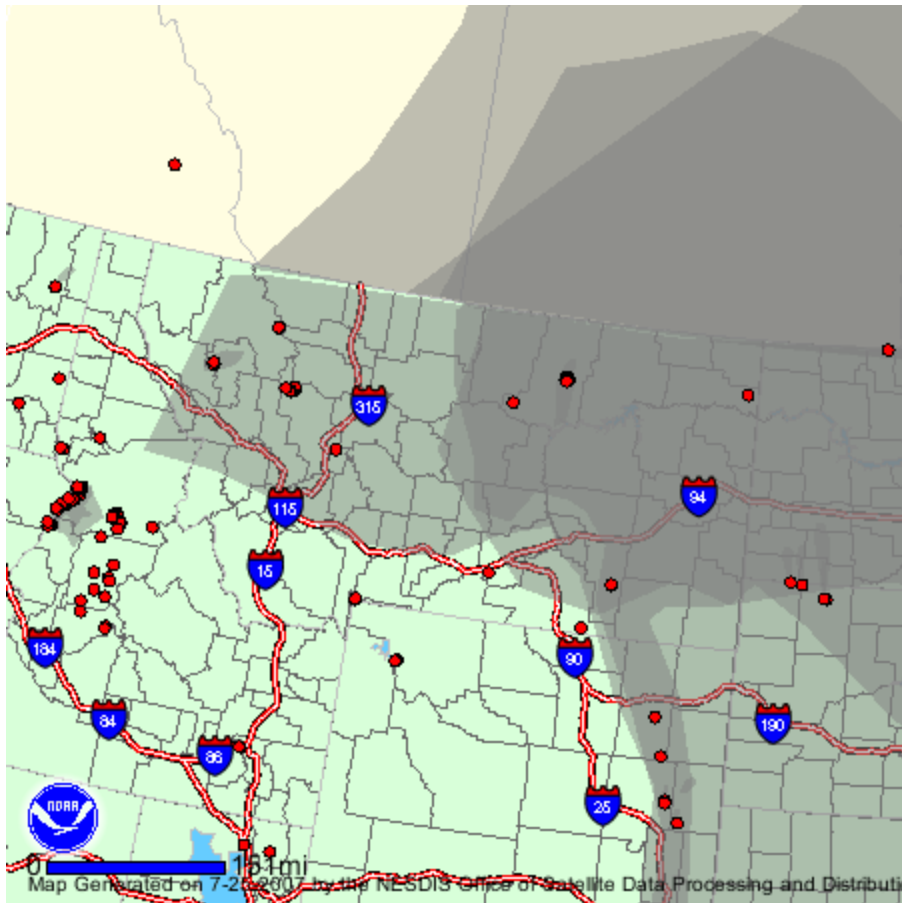
Current Situation

A frontal passage is bringing in breath of cleaner air to many parts of Montana this morning. [MODERATE](#) conditions are still present in the areas around Missoula, Hamilton, Butte, and Helena but the actual levels are substantially better than they were at this time yesterday. [UNHEALTHY](#) levels or worse are still expected locally near the active fires. Hazy sky will still be present in many areas today as the smoke from the fires in Montana yesterday moves out of the state. There is still plenty of smoke in Idaho and the fire activity levels in Montana are trending up so the respite will be short lived. See the forecast below for details. Residents near active fires or experiencing noticeable smoke levels should use the [VISIBILITY GUIDELINES](#) to determine smoke levels in their area and guide their activity decisions.

Morning satellite photo centered on Great Falls:



This morning's analysis from NOAA's satellite services division shows the active fires in Montana and the smoke plumes combining and spreading downwind (the analyzed smoke is based on yesterday's satellite coverage, the fire detects are based on last night's satellite coverage)



Red indicates hot spot detected. Grey represents smoke seen by satellite. Fire size is exaggerated for visibility at this scale

To identify individual fires on graphic above go here:

http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/lg_fire2.php

Real time particulate information is currently available in most of the larger urban areas from several different sources including: DEQ run PM-10 BAMS and PM2.5 BAMS, NWS ASOS visibility monitors, and USFS remote access Nephelometers and BAMS.

This morning's smoke report is below, comparing particulate levels where we have information to MDEQ's Forest Fire health advisory levels.

Updated 10 AM July 25, 2007

Locations and severity of forest fire smoke reports since midnight of the date above at reporting stations.

HAZARDOUS	
VERY UNHEALTHY	

<u>UNHEALTHY</u>	
<u>UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS</u>	
<u>MODERATE</u>	Missoula T24 Hamilton T24 Helena T24 Butte T24

T1(x) One-hour TEOM or BAM value (number of values)
 T8(x) Eight-hour average TEOM or BAM value(number of values)
 T24 24 hour average TEOM or BAM value
 Vis(x) Visibility value(number of hours)
 Vis(am/pm) Visibility value from twice/day reporting stations
 (est) estimate

Local impacts in areas immediately adjacent to active fires are expected to exceed some or all of the advisory levels. DEQ recommends the use of local [visibility guidelines](#) to evaluate possible health risks and make informed activity decisions.

Forecast

The residual smoke aloft under the cloud deck in eastern Montana and the smoke over the area from Missoula to Choteau south to Butte will all be moving off to the northeast today. Some impacts at the surface will occur later this morning as the plume mixes down for some temporary impacts. East winds at the surface near the Front Range will keep smoke in that area through the morning. Southwest winds will start pushing smoke back into western and southwestern Montana today. Local impacts are starting to be more of an issue as the number and acres of fire in Montana continues to rise daily. After a brief respite today we will be back to “Hot and Smoky” for a forecast tomorrow. Smoke will settle in this evening in many areas of western and central Montana. With the exception of the northwestern corner of the state hazy sky will be noticeable for the rest of the day. Local impacts from the active fires in the state will be a problem. Areas downwind of active fires could see significant impacts if fire levels increase dramatically. Residents near active fires need to remain aware of current conditions and use the [visibility guidelines](#) to guide their activity decisions as the situation changes.

[John Coefield](#), Meteorologist
 Montana Department of Environmental Quality